

Economic Development  
Bus Service Comes to the County

HOP ON THE BUS, GUS! LEAVE THE DRIVING TO US!

Need a ride? Hop on a bus!!! The Virginia Regional Transportation Association (VRTA) and Culpeper County would like you to know that they are operating the County Express bus service with convenient daily routes throughout the County. For only 50 cents per ride, with a free transfer to the Town Connector bus, you can travel almost anywhere in Culpeper. The buses have specific times and locations for stops, but they also operate on a “flag-down system.” If you need a ride, you can just flag down the driver for immediate pickup. All buses are fully handicapped accessible. The bus schedules and routes are published below, or copies are available at the Visitor’s Center on Commerce Street and the Culpeper County Library in the Southgate Shopping Center. Don’t see your location? Call 540-829-0505 to see if pickup can be arranged in your area. The VRTA and the County of Culpeper want to make transportation convenient for the citizens of Culpeper. If this service proves popular, consideration will be given to expanding the bus routes and times; so tell your friends and neighbors, and enjoy the ride on the County Express! For more information call 540-829-0505.

YELLOW ROUTE (CEDAR RUN DISTRICT)				MON & WED		
Depart From	Monday			Wednesday		
MEADOWBROOK SHOP CTR	8:30	1:00	3:00	7:30	9:30	2:00
ROUTE 299	8:33	1:03	3:03	7:33	9:33	2:03
TEAROOM COURT INTERSEC-TION	8:35	1:05	3:05	7:35	9:35	2:05
CARVER TECH	8:41	1:11	3:11	7:41	9:41	2:11
CEDAR MT. ROAD	8:43	1:13	3:13	7:43	9:43	2:13
MITCHELL DRIVE	8:44	1:14	3:14	7:44	9:44	2:14
BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH	8:46	1:16	3:16	7:46	9:46	2:16
COFFEEWOOD DRIVE INT.	8:50	1:20	3:20	7:50	9:50	2:20
MITCHELL ROAD	8:51	1:21	3:20	7:51	9:51	2:21
COMMONWEALTH PARK	8:55	1:25	3:25	7:55	9:55	2:25
WINSTON STORE	8:58	1:28	3:28	7:58	9:58	2:28
RACCOON FORD RD	9:01	1:31	3:31	8:01	10:01	2:31
RISING ZION CHURCH	9:02	1:32	3:32	8:02	10:02	2:32
LEFT ON CEDAR GROVE RD	9:04	1:34	3:34	8:04	10:04	2:34
ZACHARY TAYLOR HWY (522 S)	9:08	1:38	3:38	8:08	10:08	2:38
LOVERS LANE	9:10	1:40	3:40	8:10	10:10	2:40
84 LUMBER	9:12	1:42	3:42	8:12	10:12	2:42
RADISHES & ROSES RESTAURANT	9:13	1:43	3:43	8:13	10:13	2:43
CONTINENTAL TEVES	9:14	1:44	3:44	8:14	10:14	2:44
MADISON ROAD	9:25	1:55	3:55	8:25	10:25	2:55
MEADOWBROOK SHOP CTR	9:30	2:00	4:00	8:30	10:30	3:00

PURPLE ROUTE (SALEM DISTRICT) MON & WED						
DEPART FROM:	Monday			Wednesday		
MEADOWBROOK SHOP CTR	7:30	9:30	2:00	8:30	1:00	3:00
SHELL STATION	7:34	9:34	2:04	8:34	1:04	3:04
REVA FIREHOUSE	7:41	9:41	2:11	8:41	1:11	3:11
REVA PARK MARKET	7:45	9:45	2:15	8:45	1:15	3:15
REVA ROAD	7:47	9:47	2:17	8:47	1:17	3:17
SHANKTOWN ROAD	7:52	9:52	2:22	8:52	1:22	3:22
CANAAN BAPTIST CHURCH	7:54	9:54	2:24	8:54	1:24	3:24
GRIFFINSBURG RD	7:56	9:56	2:26	8:56	1:26	3:26
WHIPPORWILL LANE INTER.	7:58	9:58	2:28	8:58	1:28	3:28
SPERRYVILLE PIKE ROAD	8:02	10:02	2:32	9:02	1:32	3:32
ROUTE 663 (NORMAN ROAD)	8:10	10:10	2:40	9:10	1:40	3:40
MT. RUN LAKE RD	8:15	10:15	2:45	9:15	1:45	3:45
J.B.CARPENTER DRIVE	8:17	10:17	2:47	9:17	1:47	3:47
MT. RUN LAKE PARK	8:19	10:19	2:49	9:19	1:49	3:49
SHELL STATION	8:22	10:22	2:52	9:22	1:52	3:52
US 29 BYPASS	8:24	10:24	2:54	9:24	1:54	3:54
MEADOWBROOK SHOP CTR	8:30	10:30	3:00	9:30	2:00	4:00

GREEN ROUTE (JEFFERSONTON DISTRICT) TUE & FRI						
Depart From:	Tuesday			Friday		
WALMART	8:30	1:00	3:00	8:30	1:00	3:00
IRA HOFFMAN LANE	8:31	1:01	3:01	8:31	1:01	3:01
HAZEL RIVER ASSEMBLY OF GOD	8:42	1:12	3:12	8:42	1:12	3:12
RIXEYVILLE P.O.	8:43	1:13	3:13	8:43	1:13	3:13
SPRINGS ROAD (RT. 802)	8:48	1:18	3:18	8:48	1:18	3:18
PONDEROSA TRAILER PARK	8:52	1:22	3:22	9:52	1:22	3:22
JEFFERSON COMMUNITY CTR	8:56	1:26	3:26	8:56	1:26	3:26
JEFFERSONTON RD (RT. 621)	8:57	1:27	3:27	8:57	1:27	3:27
RIXEYVILLE RD (RT. 229)	8:59	1:29	3:29	8:59	1:29	3:29
OAK SHADE ROAD	9:10	1:40	3:40	9:10	1:40	3:40
LITTLE FORK EPISCOPAL CHURCH	9:12	1:42	3:42	9:12	1:42	3:42
LITTLE FORK CHURCH ROAD	9:13	1:43	3:43	9:13	1:43	3:43
RIXEYVILLE RD (RT. 229)	9:14	1:44	3:44	9:14	1:44	3:44
CATALPA STORE	9:23	1:53	3:53	9:23	1:53	3:53
IRA HOFFMAN LANE	9:24	1:54	3:54	9:24	1:54	3:54
WALMART	9:30	2:00	4:00	9:30	2:00	4:00

BLUE ROUTE (STEVENSBURG DISTRICT) TUES & THURS						
DEPART FROM:	Tuesday			Thursday		
WALMART	7:30	9:30	2:00	8:30	1:00	3:00
IRA HOFFMAN	7:31	9:31	2:02	8:31	1:01	3:01
LOWES	7:35	9:35	2:05	8:35	1:05	3:05
BRAGGS CORNER RD INT.	7:37	9:37	2:07	8:37	1:07	3:07
EXXON STATION	7:40	9:40	2:10	8:40	1:10	3:10
ROSSON TROILO	7:42	9:42	2:12	8:42	1:12	3:12
CARTER LUMBER	7:43	9:43	2:13	8:43	1:13	3:13
BRANDY STN. (BIKE SHOP)	7:45	9:45	2:15	8:45	1:15	3:15
CARRICO MILLS RD	7:46	9:46	2:16	8:46	1:16	3:16
ACROSS FM BAILEY'S STORE	7:47	9:47	2:17	8:47	1:17	3:17
GERMANNA HWY (RT.3)	7:53	9:53	2:23	8:53	1:23	3:23
BLUE RIDGE GROWERS	8:05	10:05	2:35	9:05	1:35	3:35
STORE @ BATNA ROAD	8:10	10:10	2:40	9:10	1:40	3:40
MCDEVITT DRIVE	8:17	10:17	2:47	9:17	1:47	3:47
KEYSER ROAD	8:20	10:20	2:50	9:20	1:50	3:50
NALLES MILL RD	8:24	10:24	2:54	9:24	1:54	3:54
WALMART	8:30	10:30	3:00	9:30	2:00	4:00

Economic Development

Bus Service Comes to the County (Continued)

RED ROUTE (CATALPA DISTRICT) THUR & FRI							ORANGE ROUTE (JOB ROUTE) MON - FRI		
DEPART FROM:	Thursday			Friday			DEPART FROM	A.M.	P.M.
WALMART	7:30	9:30	2:00	7:30	9:30	2:00	CULPEPER TRAIN DEPOT	6:30	
IRA HOFFMAN LANE	7:32	9:32	2:02	7:32	9:32	2:02	COMMERCE STREET	6:31	
EGGBORNSVILLE RD	7:36	9:36	2:06	7:36	9:36	2:06	NORTH EAST STREET	6:33	
CHESTNUT FORK	7:39	9:39	2:09	7:39	9:39	2:09	EAST PIEDMONT STREET	6:34	
CHERRY HILL RD. INT.	7:42	9:42	2:12	7:42	9:42	2:12	OLD BRANDY ROAD	6:35	
SETTLE ROAD (MARKET)	7:46	9:46	2:16	7:46	9:46	2:16	CULPEPER TOWN MALL (REAR)	6:36	
JOLIFFE LANE (CHURCH)	7:51	9:51	2:21	7:51	9:51	2:21	WALMART	6:39	4:00
BEULAH BAPTIST CHURCH	7:53	9:53	2:23	7:53	9:53	2:23	LOWES	6:42	4:03
SCOTTS MILL ROAD	7:56	9:56	2:26	7:56	9:56	2:26	BRAGGS CORNER INTERSECTION	6:44	4:05
OLD TURNPIKE ROAD	7:59	9:59	2:29	7:59	9:59	2:29	ROSSON-TROILO	6:52	4:09
SPERRYVILLE PIKE	8:03	10:03	2:33	8:03	10:03	2:33	CARTER LUMBER	6:54	4:09
SALEM VFD	8:06	10:06	2:36	8:06	10:06	2:36	BRANDY STATION (BIKE SHOP)		4:12
GRIFFINSBURG GEN'L STORE	8:10	10:10	2:40	8:10	10:10	2:40	ROUTE 663	7:00	4:13
WOODLAND CHURCH RD	8:14	10:14	2:44	8:14	10:14	2:44	FLEETWOOD HEIGHTS	7:02	4:14
METHODIST CHURCH	8:17	10:17	2:47	8:17	10:17	2:47	AIRPARK DRIVE	7:08	4:16
CHERRY HILL RD. INTERSEC.	8:22	10:22	2:52	8:22	10:22	2:52	EURO COMPOSITES	7:09	4:18
RANDLE RD. INTERSEC.	8:25	10:25	2:55	8:25	10:25	2:55	GREEN FIBER	7:09	4:18
EGGSBORNSVILLE RD	8:27	10:27	2:57	8:27	10:27	2:57	GLUNZ-JENSON	7:10	4:19
IRA HOFFMAN LANE	8:29	10:29	2:59	8:29	10:29	2:59	BUILDERS FIRST CHOICE	7:11	4:20
WALMART	8:30	10:30	3:00	8:30	10:30	3:00	MILLER & COMPANY	7:12	4:21
							BEVERLY FORD ROAD	7:14	4:22
							ROSS INDUSTRIES	7:15	4:25
							U.S. 29 BYPASS		
							BEGIN MAGISTERIAL ROUTES	7:30	
							CULPEPER TRAIN DEPOT - END OF ROUTE		5:00

HAPPY 400<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY!

VIRGINIA

The Town and County of Culpeper have jumped on board the Jamestown 2007 celebration express. In 2007, Virginia will celebrate a special year and a special moment in history. In 1607 the first settlers arrived at Jamestown, unprepared for what they might face, but determined to make the best of things. They endured disease, hostilities, and starvation, but Virginia became the birthplace of a great nation. Four hundred years later, every community in Virginia has been invited to participate in the planning of a commemoration that honors these origins. Culpeper joins with other communities in preparing a variety of entertaining, cultural and educational events to celebrate Virginia’s and our nation’s heritage during the next two years.

A local steering committee has been formed that includes representatives from Culpeper Renaissance, Inc., the Department of Tourism, the Department of Economic Development, the Culpeper Chamber of Commerce and the Museum of Culpeper History to coordinate the planning process. Some exciting events are being planned to make this birthday a special one. Culpeper Remembrance Days will be an annual spring event focusing on Culpeper’s history. A Taste of Culpeper will be a fall festival highlighting restaurants, wineries and locally grown products. The Museum of Culpeper History is planning special exhibits and events as well. A Town Hall meeting was held May 11 at the Depot to create awareness of this significant event in our community, and to encourage additional participation in this celebration. If you missed this event, and are interested in becoming involved, please contact the Department of Economic Development at 727-3410, CRI at 825-4416, or Culpeper Tourism at 727-0611. Governor Mark Warner encourages everyone to “*Come Home to Virginia...Our Nation’s Birthplace,*” to celebrate our fascinating heritage. Won’t you join us?

For more information, please visit the Jamestown 2007 website at [www.Jamestown2007.org](http://www.Jamestown2007.org).





Department of Economic Development

BLUE, GRAY AND GREEN:  
WHY SAVING CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELDS MAKES ECONOMIC SENSE

**"TOURISTS PAY TO SEE OUR SCENERY, TO LEARN OF OUR HISTORY, AND ENJOY OUR NATURAL ATTRACTIONS. WHEN THEY LEAVE, WE STILL HAVE THE SCENERY, THE HISTORY, AND THE NATURAL ATTRACTIONS TO ENJOY AND SELL OVER AND OVER AGAIN."** – *Historic Chattahoochee Commission, Eufaula, Alabama*

Thousands of visitors come to Culpeper County each year to see our Civil War attractions. Residents have this amazing display of history in their own backyard. A free Civil War Driving Tour pamphlet, recently developed by the Department of Tourism, is available at the Visitor Center located at 109 S. Commerce St. [www.visitculpeperva.com](http://www.visitculpeperva.com)

**THE GRAFFITI HOUSE is one of only four buildings in Virginia known to contain a significant collection of drawings and writing by Civil War soldiers.** Using charcoal from the fireplace, a



The Graffiti House – 1990’s photo

Confederate soldier happily reported one day’s event: "April 16<sup>th</sup>, 1863, Battle of Beverly’s Ford, Yanks Caught Hell." Sometime later, possibly during the winter encampment of 1863, a Union Soldier scrawled "Army of the United States of America" over the top of the Confederate’s gloating. The Graffiti House was purchased from private owners in 2002 and is now open to the public with no admission charge, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, April through October. It is located at 19484 Brandy Road, Brandy Station, VA. Phone: 540-727-7718 [www.brandystationfoundation.com](http://www.brandystationfoundation.com)



The Graffiti House - Today

A LECTURE SERIES is held at the Graffiti House on the last Sunday of each month from 2 – 3:15 p.m.. Reservations are required due to space limitations:

Phone Jim at 540-439-3549 or email: [SumerduckWood@aol.com](mailto:SumerduckWood@aol.com) \$5 donation suggested.

- May 29 “The Civil War in Northern Virginia” by Michael Schellhammer
- June 26 “The Death of Major John Pelham” by Donald Tharpe
- July 31 “The Maps of Jed Hotchkiss, ‘The Cartographer of Stonewall Jackson’” by Ken Purks
- August 28 “Major James Breathed, of Jeb Stuart’s Horse Artillery” by David Bridges
- Sept 25 “Graffiti House and the Current Research Findings on the Graffiti" by Bob Luddy
- October 30 “Duffie at Stevensburg” by Joe McKinney

**THE MUSEUM OF CULPEPER HISTORY** is a logical place to begin exploring the history of the Civil War in Culpeper County. There are displays of trenches, fortifications and artifacts left behind from 160+ battles and the largest encampment (120,000 troops) of the War Between the States. A large three-dimensional map of the county orientates visitors to the battlefields. In addition, one can visit the Burgandine House, a fully restored 18th century log cabin. The grounds are complete with ample green space for picnicking and outdoor programs, as well as a spacious parking area.

The museum is located at 803 S. Main Street, Culpeper. It is open Monday – Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: Free for Children (18 and under), Culpeper residents and Museum "Friends" and their guests. \$3 for Out of Town Adult Visitors. 540-829-1749 [www.culpepermuseum.com](http://www.culpepermuseum.com)

**"CONGRESS DESIGNATED ONLY 384 CIVIL WAR BATTLES, OUT OF MORE THAN 10,000 – LESS THAN 4% - AS THE NATION’S PRINCIPAL BATTLEFIELDS." IF YOU ARE LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE SUCH A RARE RESOURCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY, TAKE ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE OF IT!"**

– Civil War Preservation Trust

One could argue that nearly every inch of Culpeper County bears some Civil War historical significance. Three battlefields, **Brandy Station, Cedar Mountain and Kelly’s Ford** were singled out in a 1993 Congressional study as key engagements of the war. Of the 384 sights in 25 states, nineteen-percent (71) of the Civil War battlefields are already lost as intact historic landscapes. Half of the 232 principal battlefields that currently are in good or fair condition are now experiencing high or moderate threats. Most of these sites will be lost or seriously fragmented within the coming 10 years.



The Battle at Kelly’s Ford

Department of Economic Development (Continued)

**CEDAR MOUNTAIN - August 9, 1862:** Stonewall Jackson, with 22,000 men, formed a line of battle at Cedar Mountain. The 12,000 Federals, under Nathaniel Banks gained an early advantage against Jackson. It was the only battle in which Stonewall Jackson attempted to draw his sword and lead his troops by example. Swayed by his personal involvement, Jackson later asserted that Cedar Mountain was the most successful of his exploits. A confederate counterattack, lead by Culpeper native, A.P. Hill, repulsed the Federals and won the day. Over 3,500 men were killed or wounded that day, during the deadliest day in Culpeper’s history.

The Friends of Cedar Mountain Battlefield (FCMB) is a new organization dedicated to working with the local community to protect, restore, manage, and interpret the Cedar Mountain Civil War Battlefield in Culpeper County. They have launched an ambitious project to restore the 152-acres of the Civil War Preservation Trust’s Cedar Mountain Battlefield Park to its historical landscape. Volunteers are needed to help with this project. From Culpeper, take Rt. 15 south for 6 miles, take a right onto #657/General Winder Rd. Contact: kurt\_johnson@fws.gov

**KELLY’S FORD – March 17, 1863:** General Fitzhugh Lee led a raid through Union lines to Hartwood Church in Stafford County in February 1863. There, he left a note for his West Point classmate, Union Brigadier General William Woods Averell. Lee asked Averell to put down his sword and go home, but if that were not possible, to pay a visit and bring some coffee. (Coffee was in short supply in the Confederacy). A month later, on St. Patrick’s Day, Averell led 2200 Union cavalymen across the Rappahannock at Kelly’s Ford. After a hard fought battle, Averell withdrew back across the river. Under a tree, Fitz Lee found a bag of coffee and a note. "Fitz – Here’s your coffee. Here’s your visit. How did you like it? Averell"

Located on the historical site of the Kelly’s Ford Civil War Battlefield is the "Inn at Kelly’s Ford". This home of the prosperous Kelly Family during the Civil War has been restored and expanded. Today, it provides luxurious lodgings, accommodations, fine dining, and an indoor/outdoor equestrian center and conference center. From Culpeper take Rt. 29 north for 9 miles. Turn right onto Route 674/Kelly’s Ford Road. Proceed 5 miles; turn left onto Route 629 to 16589 Edward’s Shop Road. Phone: 540-399-1779; Web site: www.innatkellysford.com

**BRANDY STATION – June 9, 1863:** Culpeper was reported to have the best grass in Virginia, and so in May 1863, JEB Stuart assembled his cavalry in Culpeper to prepare for the summer campaign. One of history’s greatest cavalry engagements, with over 20,000 troops, occurred on June 9<sup>th</sup> in Brandy Station when Brigadier General Alfred Pleasanton was ordered to "dispose and destroy" the Confederate cavalry. The battle raged all day from Beverly’s Ford and Kelly’s Ford on the Rappahannock River to the final decisive contest for Fleetwood Hill, the site of Stuart’s headquarters. From Culpeper take Rt. 29 north for 5 miles, turn right on Route 663/Alanthus Road and next left to the Graffiti House, Brandy Station Battlefield Information Center, 19484 Brandy Road. Web Site: www.brandystationfoundation.com

Tours of the Brandy Station Battlefield depart from the Graffiti House every other Saturday from April 9th though October. A series of 4 tours will cover the fighting around Beverly’s Ford & St. James Church, Kelly’s Ford & Stevensburg, Fleetwood Hill and Buford’s Knoll & Yew Ridge. The tours begin at 10 AM and conclude at the Graffiti House at noon. \$5 per person, children under 12 free. For further information contact Gary Wilson, 540-547-4106 or e-mail: bsfjune91863@aol.com

**Preserving a Civil War Battlefield brings substantial economic benefits to the surrounding area. Tourists visiting battlefields can bring dollars to the community. Building houses can actually cost more in services than it generates in taxes.**

- On average, for each dollar of tax revenue paid, a subdivision costs a community \$1.34 in services like schools, police, hospitals, and sewage – a net LOSS of \$0.34. –*The Sierra Club, 1999*
- Open land (like a battlefield) costs on average \$.30 in services for every tax dollar received – a net GAIN of \$0.70. *The Sierra Club, 1999*

CULPEPER 2005 CALENDAR – CIVIL WAR EVENTS

May 14 & 15 – Battle of Kelly’s Ford Re-enactment. Two battles Saturday. Sunday tactical, reenactment, horse races. Period ball Saturday evening with 97<sup>th</sup> Regimental String Band. Phone 540-399-1779

June 11 - Battle of Brandy Station – 142<sup>nd</sup> anniversary commemoration to include living history demonstrations at the Graffiti House and battlefield tours. Phone 540-727-7718

August 6 & 7- Battle of Cedar Mountain Anniversary Commemoration

September 24 – Salubria – House tour, period music and local artisans display historic crafts of the Civil War period.

By Della Edrington for the Culpeper Department of Economic Development

Department of Economic Development 540-727-3410  
www.CulpeperBiz.com



## Virginia Cooperative Extension Services



### Household Mold

Linda G. Murphy, Extension Agent  
Family & Consumer Sciences

Almost every homeowner sooner or later encounters mold growing somewhere in the home. Molds are a part of the environment and play an important role in nature. Inside the home, however, they can cause problems when they land on a damp surface and start growing. In addition to damaging materials, there is a potential for adverse health effects in sensitive individuals.

The key to mold control is moisture control. Mold needs moisture and oxygen to grow. Moisture in the home results from water damage or condensation and humidity. Water damage may be due to a leaky roof, improper drainage around the house, improperly maintained gutters and downspouts, leaking water fixtures or pipes, or blocked AC drainage. Regular inspections of the home's systems to spot little leaks and potential problems can fend off a major problem.

Condensation and humidity need to be controlled. Most molds start growing when relative humidity reaches 70%. To decrease mold growth, reduce indoor humidity to the 30-60% range. In addition, increase ventilation for good air flow around the room and furnishings. Exhaust fans carry moisture-laden air outdoors. Found in bathrooms and kitchens they need to be kept in good working condition and utilized. The heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system needs to be well maintained. A dehumidifier may help in some areas as a prevention aid. The building envelope should be insulated to prevent condensation.

If building materials get wet, mold growth will start in 24-48 hours. It is important to clean and dry any damp materials immediately.

Clean mold from hard surfaces with water and detergent. Dry completely. Absorbent materials may need to be replaced. It is important to use protective gear when cleaning up mold.

The Environmental Protection Agency's *A Brief Guide to Mold, Moisture, and Your Home* is a great source of information on the topic. It is available from their website, [www.epa.gov/iaq/molds/moldresources.html](http://www.epa.gov/iaq/molds/moldresources.html). It is one of many homeowner information publications on indoor air quality provided by the EPA.

### Hello Culpeper County

Keith Dickinson

Extension Agent, Farm Business Management

My name is Keith Dickinson, and I joined the staff of the Culpeper County Cooperative Extension Office on February 10, 2005, as the new Farm Business Management Extension Agent for the Northern District of Virginia Cooperative Extension. I will serve a 19 county area, bringing Farm Business Management related educational programs to the citizens of the North – Central region of Virginia.

The Farm Business Management program of Extension brings research based farm business and agricultural economics information to farm managers, agricultural landowners, agri-businesses and other agricultural professionals. Topics addressed by the farm management program include: Estate & Retirement Planning, Crop and Livestock Budgeting, Marketing of Farm Products, Business Planning, Farm Leasing, and Risk Management.

I am not new to the area, or to Cooperative Extension. Since 1996, I have served as the agricultural extension agent for Fauquier County. I received a Master's Degree in Agricultural & Applied Economics from Virginia Tech while on the job in Fauquier, and I am looking forward to the opportunity to make better use of this degree in my new role with extension.

I was raised on a family farm in South Jersey (I don't claim the rest of the state!). I am still involved with the family operation with respect to helping with business decisions and make the occasional trip home to spend some time in a tractor seat. I believe that the combination of my farm upbringing, my experience as a county extension agent and my education have prepared me well

for this new position.

I am excited about this new role, and I look forward to meeting and working with the many new and interesting people in this region. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have related to the subjects of farm management and economics. I can be reached by phone at the Culpeper County Office of Virginia Cooperative Extension at 540-727-3435, extension 342, or by email at [Keith.Dickinson@vt.edu](mailto:Keith.Dickinson@vt.edu).



### 4-H and the Youth of Culpeper

Vivienne S. Ellyson  
Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development

As a new 4-H agent, I've been noticing the many ways that the 4-H program touches the lives of Culpeper's youth in a positive way. Students are excited when teachers take advantage of 4-H programming, bringing them a special, exciting lesson. After school programs, such as the drawing and painting classes taking place this semester, allow participants to focus on their special interests and develop their talents. 4-H camps give many kids the opportunity to experience time away from home, trying new activities, enjoying varied recreational facilities, singing around a campfire, making new friends, and learning more about themselves in the process. Teens serving as camp counselors have a chance to demonstrate how responsible they can be and develop their leadership skills. Special Interest Workshops expose kids to new ideas, allowing them to try something new without a long-term commitment, and may lead to them realizing a talent or finding a satisfying life-long hobby. Youth in 4-H clubs learn so much more than subject matter. They learn life skills such as decision making, citizenship, teamwork, record keeping, and goal setting, while having the chance to try on leadership roles and perform community service. Exhibiting a project at the CMR Fair or participating in 4-H events such as Presentations, Share-the-Fun, and Fashion Revue provides friendly competition and an opportunity to develop poise and self-esteem.

Of course I think that Culpeper 4-H is great, but the 4-H motto is to "make the Best Better." To improve the 4-H program two things are necessary: **more youth** need to become involved in 4-H, which, of course, means that **more adults** must become involved as well.

Perhaps more youth would be involved in 4-H if their parents knew the steps to take. So here is some basic information about how the 4-H program operates in Culpeper.

- Summer Camp takes place in August (Aug. 7 – 11 this year). Information becomes available in late-March/early April, and registrations are due in mid-April.
- Winter Camp takes place in February. Information becomes available in late Dec./early Jan., and registrations must be sent in by mid-January.
- Special Interest Workshops are offered year round, but mainly during the summer. These may last one day or a few days, possibly spread out over a few weeks. Summer workshops are advertised through the schools. All workshops are noted in the 4-H Newsletter, and you may pick up the current copy at the Extension Office.
- County Competitions are in the spring (March 19 this year) and are advertised in the 4-H Newsletter and through the schools. Youth may compete in three areas: Presentations (public speaking/ illustrated talk/ demonstration), Share-the-Fun (talent show), and Fashion Revue (fashion show). Preparatory workshops/ rehearsals are offered prior to competition day.
- The CMR Farm Fair is held in July, providing an opportunity for 4-H'ers to exhibit their projects. The booklet describing the various categories for exhibits is usually available in May. To show a farm animal, you must be

Virginia Cooperative Extension Services (*Continued*)

enrolled in a 4-H club. There are some open classes for showing pets, for which prior 4-H membership is not necessary. Any youth or adult may enter exhibits in the Homemaker’s Building, which has categories for everything from crops and flowers to art and photography to baked goods and preserves. Early registration is generally in late May/early June, but exhibits for the Homemaker’s Building can be entered a few days before the Farm Fair.

- There are various 4-H Clubs. The club year runs from Oct. 1 through Sept. 30, meaning that most clubs elect officers, set goals, and plan programming in the fall. Projects are typically exhibited at the CMR Fair and record books are submitted in September. But you don’t have to wait until October to join a club, as all clubs welcome new members at any time

As the 4-H agent, I would like to make even more programming available to youth in this county, but that requires more adult volunteers. Chances are that if you have a special interest or talent to share, there are kids out there that would love to learn from you. Perhaps more adults would be involved in 4-H if they knew the options. So here is a list of ways that adults can help:

- Teach a short, one time workshop. You pick the topic!
- Teach a series of workshops over a few weeks or months.
- Teach a class at Summer Camp or Winter Camp. We’re always looking for new ideas to keep the program varied.
- Spend a week at Summer Camp or a weekend at Winter Camp supervising children and assisting instructors with their classes. Male volunteers are especially needed to maintain the required adult/child ratio.
- Assist with Presentations, Share-the-Fun, and Fashion Revue as a coordinator, judge, room chair, or someone to help with the paperwork.
- Start a new club. It can be a Project Club, as most of our current clubs are,

where the focus is on learning one thing in particular. There is interest right now for clubs devoted to fashion/sewing, performing arts, and arts & crafts; but other suggestions are welcome. I would love to see some new Community Clubs organized, those in which the focus is more general. In such a club there may be groups of children working on several projects at once, perhaps woodworking, gardening, photography, and cooking. Or the entire club may elect to have everyone work on one project for a period of time and then vote to try a different project for a while.

Plenty of training, help in getting organized/started, and continuing support will be provided for all volunteers. There’s no better way to insure a bright future than by sharing your expertise and time with the youth of today. Contact the 4-H Office (727-3435) to discuss the possibilities of getting your whole family involved in 4-H. Don’t miss the fun!

2005 4-H SUMMER WORKSHOPS

Denise Walker  
4-H Program Assistant

**We are in the process of booking 4-H Summer Workshops.** This year we will again offer a great assortment of workshops, such as ***fishing, cooking, babysitting, drawing, painting, batik, wearable art, crafts, and model rocketry*** from June through August. 4-H Summer Workshops are offered to youth from ages 5 to 19. A complete list of the workshops will be distributed to all Culpeper school students at the beginning of May.

*If you have a talent that you would like to share with the youth in our community, please call Denise Walker, 4-H Program Assistant, at 727-3435.*

CULPEPER AGRICULTURE by *Carl C. Stafford, Extension Agent*

The USDA National Agriculture Statistics Service produces a census of agriculture every 5 years. Many readers have not seen the most recent 2002 numbers for Culpeper County, so this is an opportunity to interpret the results and provide you with some perspective on their meaning. Hopefully this will become a basis for your understanding of, and appreciation for, the economic value of this industry.

We have gained farm numbers over the last 10 years but were losing farm numbers in the late 80’s. Lately we have grown from around 500 farms in the 90’s to almost 700 farms today (669 farms, 2002 census). At first, increasing farm numbers is puzzling, as we watch the sale and development of land in our area. That is, until you realize that larger farm tracts can be divided into smaller farm tracts, thus increasing the total number of farms. Commercial farmers laugh when we talk about the official definition of a farm, which is in essence: gross \$1000 or more from its production (see IRS rules for details). Indeed a minority of our producers generate a majority of the total farm income.

Another indicator of agriculture would be the total acres devoted to production. Our county is roughly 250,000 acres in total land mass, with about half that devoted to agriculture (125,121 acres, 2002 census). Historically we have been reporting about 115,000 farm acres in the census with decreases in acreage as it is converted out of farming. Quick math says we have gained about 10,000 acres over time. This is inaccurate from my perspective. You can’t gain farm acres when new roads are built, new house lots developed, recreation areas created and new ponds flooded. The short answer is it’s impossible. I explain the change two ways: producer acreage reporting adjustments and/or accounting adjustments by the census. We have not gained acres, but in truth have actually lost total farm acreage due to the uses mentioned. Hopefully the acreage reported in 2002 census is now on target.

Composition of agriculture is another set of details helping the reader understand the source for agricultural dollars. In total, gross receipts are around \$36 million (36,713,000 dollars, 2002 census) roughly a \$14 million increase from 1997. While I cannot exactly pinpoint total dollars any better than the census, I do understand gross revenue sources and recognize when they need local adjustment for accuracy. During the 90’s our county agriculture revenue was reported to be just over \$20 million (22,094,000 dollars, 1997 census). I knew this was low as the “Greens” industry (greenhouse, nursery, flowers and sod)

alone could have accounted for a conservative \$10 million in revenue. Their revenue numbers were not well represented in the old census. Today, we more closely capture the “Greens” industry through the census, a better accounting for the source of increase in total agricultural revenue. We are a leading producer of non-edible plant products.

Let’s not leave out traditional uses of the land that include beef and dairy farming, grain and hay production, and of course our increasing equine industry. Livestock account for some 50% of the total revenue in the local farm economy (17,861,000 dollars, 2002 census) with plant production efforts accounting for approximately the other 50% (18,851,000 dollars, 2002 census). The plant figure may still be low, and our true gross from plant production efforts could be over \$20 million today.

Be aware that economists predict an “induced effect” for Culpeper County agriculture. They say that for each \$1.00 of agricultural products sold there is \$2.30 in additional economic activity that results. This is in essence a ripple effect. And, the real estate taxes paid by agriculture, even with land use taxation, are a net profit to the tax base. This means that agriculture pays in more than it takes out. Indeed while farmers send children to school and drive the roads and visit the library and participate in little league alongside the rest of us, they pay taxes on their home at the same rate as other home owners. The catch is their farm acres send no children to school, require no police or fire protection or any other county services that residential uses generate. This is why farms are a net benefit to the local tax base – their land is extremely low cost to the community.

We often speak of economic development as the savior to the local tax base, a source of new revenue that will offset the net cost of our growing residential population. While this can be true, if we work to keep existing farms, we will retain their net contribution to the tax base. When we lose a farm, we must then spread its share of taxes across the rest of the tax base. If a farm is lost, this means taxes must go up for those that remain, if the budget is to balance. In contrast, if an average home were theoretically removed from the tax base, we could actually cut taxes and maintain our balanced budget.

Retaining farms is good business for the local economy, as they generate net revenue to the county budget, and they are the source of a significant economic ripple effect due to their production and sale of agricultural products.





*A healthy community is responsible for the acceptance and ownership of the physical, psychological, social, intellectual, emotional and spiritual needs of all its members.*

**Healthy Culpeper**  
**763 Madison Road, Suite 208**  
**Culpeper, VA 2270(540) 829-2065 x 308**  
**www.healthyculpeper.org**

*Healthy Culpeper is a collaboration of over 55 community partners (i.e. agencies, businesses, law enforcement, local government, professionals and programs available in Culpeper County). The vision of the collaboration is a commitment to working together to create a healthy, secure, and educated community by developing and providing services that promote interdependence, acknowledge the importance of family-like support systems, and are participant-focused.*

**WHAT'S HAPPENING:**

**Early Childhood:**

- Working with the County on an Early Childhood Development and Family Strengthening grant that was recently received from NACO (National Association of Counties) to develop a Local Action Plan
- Planning an 8-session seminar series for early childhood educators, providers, and parents called "Promoting the Social Emotional Competency of Young Children"; the training will discuss nurturing environments for children and address challenging behaviors of young children

**Youth:**

- Held a Mentors' Training in April to train new mentors on successful relationship development techniques

**Teen/Prevention Coalition:**

- The Rappahannock-Rapidan Community Services Board, the Virginia Cooperative Extension, Culpeper County Parks & Recreation and SAVVI (Sexual Assault Volunteer Victims Initiative) sponsored movie "trailers" for the first part of 2005 that focused on teen issues and sharing resource information.

- The After-School Arts Program exhibition was held at the Culpeper Depot in May; parents had the opportunity to meet instructors, and the public was invited to see and hear all of their artistic endeavors! Information about the new and expanded Program (with the addition of a fall semester) was shared as well.
- VARA Survey results were received and reviewed; Workgroups were established around the relevant risk and protective factors explored in the survey including Diet & Exercise, Family, Personal Safety, Alcohol/Tobacco/Drugs, Mental Health, and Sexuality.
- Applied for the federal grant: Drug-Free Communities Support Program to support substance abuse prevention efforts; awards will be announced in October.

**Adult/Senior:**

- Who will be caring for you? Join the Community Conversation on Aging on May 19, 2005 from 9:30-12:30 (Location: TBA) with topics including transportation, housing, quality of care, workforce, caregiver support, wellness, prescription drugs, etc. The event is sponsored by Healthy Culpeper and the Rappahannock-Rapidan Eldercare Coalition.
- A big thank you to the Piedmont VA Building Industry Association for their YEAR-LONG sponsorship of the food delivery to the Empowering Culpeper Food Commodities Program! Their generosity will enable the program to continue serving an average of 250-300 individuals and families a month!

**There are many opportunities for community participation-contact Cindy Colson, Executive Director, at (540) 829-2065 x308 or by email at colson@hfculpeper.org**

## Culpeper County Department of Health

### HEALTH DISTRICT INCREASES BREAST CANCER OUTREACH TO UNDERINSURED LATINA AND BLACK WOMEN

**NEW \$25,000 GRANT MAKES IT POSSIBLE**

(Culpeper) – The Rappahannock-Rapidan Health District will be reaching more medically underserved and underinsured Black and Latina women with vital information on breast cancer prevention that could save their lives. The Health District was able to hire a new employee, Maria Rivera Estevez, of Culpeper, who began work for the District March 30th. With a background in business, and as a counselor at the Culpeper Pregnancy Center, Estevez will be building community contacts and organizing education events at churches and other locations across the District.

The grant was awarded to the Health District by the Susan G. Komen Foundation and is directed towards targeted efforts of community education on the importance of screening and mammograms for all women, especially those over age 40 who are at highest risk of contracting the disease.

According to District Health Director, Lilian Peake, MD, MPH, "We call this grant 'Reach Out a Hand for Nan', in observance of our beloved nurse practitioner, Nancy Jean Schmitz, who died on April 2, 2004, at age 49, after an 8-year battle with breast cancer. If we can possibly save lives with sharing such important preventative information with the community, to a population that may not be widely aware of such information or available resources, then we have truly served others well," Dr. Peake said.

The Rappahannock-Rapidan Health District (Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock Counties) has data which identifies cancer death rates in three of their five rural counties in the top 20 in the Commonwealth of

Virginia. The uninsured rate in the district is close to 15%, higher than the rate for the Commonwealth as a whole. Currently, outreach programs for Black and Latina women are scarce, even though this group makes up almost 15% of the District population, which represents almost 10,000 minority women of all ages.

"We want to reach out to all Black and Latina women with breast health education through culturally sensitive talks and breast self-exam demonstrations at churches, community groups, and businesses," said Carol Daley, a Culpeper District Manager who pioneered the grant. "Many of the women we see at our clinics are under the age of 40, and do not fall into a high risk category, so this funding opens up a whole new opportunity to reach people that may not have a clear understanding of the risks. Our goal is to help inspire women to adopt healthy lifestyle behaviors," Daley said.

Local hospitals in the District are partnering in the effort as well. They have agreed to provide mammogram screenings to eligible women participating in the program. "With cooperation from the hospitals, free clinics, and the community at large, I think our new program will make a tremendous difference in our region," said Dr. Peake.

For more information on breast cancer or preventative education, please call Connie Corbin, Nurse Practitioner and grant director, or contact Maria Rivera Estevez at the Health Department at 540/829-7350 about participating in your community event.

*Lucy H. Caldwell, Regional Public Information Officer*

**Culpeper County Department of Health 540 829-7350**



## The Busy Person's Guide to Lawn Care

The choices you make in maintaining your lawn can make a real difference in the health of local streams and downstream in the Chesapeake Bay. Indeed, you can help protect the Bay and have a respectable-looking yard by doing virtually nothing at all. Take a minute to consider some easy tips to help simplify lawn care. With all the time you save, you can spend more time on your deck snoozing, watching clouds or enjoying a nice cold beverage.

**1. Keep the Spreader in the Garage This Year.** Unless you plan to have livestock grazing on your lawn, you simply don't need to fertilize your grass every year. About half of Bay residents never fertilize their grass and their lawns are still green. Take a break for a year and see how your lawn responds. Also, there are some new fertilizers on the market that are more environmentally-friendly.

**2. Use a Mulching Lawn Mower.** These types of mowers recycle lawn clippings on your yard, help build your soils, and preserve landfill space. According to surveys, nearly 60% of Bay residents practice this form of grass recycling. Using a composting mower can help meet at least a fourth of the nutrient needs of your yard and saves dozens of hours of bagging over the course of a summer. It also reduces the amount of stuff that goes into our landfills.

**3. Mow Higher and Less Frequently.** You can control weeds by shading them out. Set your mower height to three inches, and you will have both a healthier lawn and fewer weeds. Turf grass experts caution that cutting grass too short is the second leading cause of problem lawns. Be sure to adjust the cutting height come fall, though. This will reduce winter-time diseases.

**4. Don't Bother with Herbicides; You Really Can't Win.** An average acre of soil contains more than 200 million "weed" seeds in the top six inches of soil, which germinate under the right moisture, light and temperature conditions. Indeed, when you turn over grass and expose the underlying soil, about five percent of these seeds can germinate, or about 250 weeds per square foot. Don't get involved in a battle you can't win, and remember that the naked eye generally cannot distinguish between a perfect lawn and one containing at least a few weeds.

**5. Take Advantage of a Harsh Winter.** One of the few benefits of a harsh winter is that extreme cold temperatures and frozen ground can greatly increase the mortality of many common insect pests in our region. Given the particularly harsh winter we just experienced, we can expect fewer insect problems compared to the mild winters of years past. So, you might want to keep the pesticide applicator in the garage this summer, unless pests become a problem.

**6. Honey, I Shrunk The Lawn!** A great way to save a lot of time is to try to shrink your yard by about five percent each year. Start with the soggy and/or steep areas that are difficult to mow. Dig out the lawn and replace it with flower and shrub beds. There are many attractive ways to do this. You can lay down three or four inches of mulch and plant some container grown plants. Or visit your local lawn and garden store and buy a meadow seed mix for about \$10. These mixes contain colorful annual and perennial seeds that can attract butterflies and hummingbirds to your home.

**7. Plant a Fruit Tree or a Native Shrub.** Birds love to eat insects and grubs, so try attracting them by planting native trees or shrubs that produce tasty berries. Then, sit back on your deck, and let the birds do the work. Big insect-eaters include bluebirds, cardinals, robins, nuthatches and tufted titmice.

**8. Select a Good Natural Lawn Care Company.** About 25% of us use the services of a lawn care company to take care of our yards. While it is laudable to have somebody else to do the sweating, a good slacker should insist on a company that uses organic fertilizers and natural pest management techniques. Although just about every lawn care company has the word "green" in its name, this doesn't necessarily mean that it practices environmentally-responsible lawn care.

**9. Turn Off the Spigot.** Yards have recovered nicely since the drought of 2002. Established lawns will survive a few weeks without rain, so save both money and time by reducing or eliminating lawn watering.

### ToolKit: Calibrate Your Spreader

If you decide that you are going to fertilize your lawn this year, you can still take steps to minimize the impact on the environment beyond your yard. By calibrating your spreader before you begin, you can ensure that you use the proper amount of fertilizer and don't jeopardize the health of the Bay - and you might save some money, too.

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For more information about lawn care, best management practices, reporting pollution, moving dirt and other issues regarding soil and water conservation please contact Stephanie Rose DeNicola, Communications Specialist of Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District at (540) 825-8591.





From Your Commissioner of the Revenue

Terry L. Yowell



The More You Know.....

SUPPLEMENTAL REAL ESTATE TAX BILLS

As a reminder: You may recall that the Culpeper County Board of Supervisors enacted an ordinance effective January 1, 2003, which allows for the assessment and taxation of newly constructed buildings on a pro-rated, calendar year basis. Effective January 1, 2004, the Town of Culpeper Council adopted this same ordinance.

In addition to assessments based on a percentage complete as of January 1 of each year, newly constructed buildings are assessed, and taxes are levied, on a pro-rated basis determined by the number of days following either the issuance of a certificate of occupancy for the building, or when the building is considered fit for use. For new construction located within the town limits, the Town of Culpeper as well as the County of Culpeper will generate a pro-rated real estate tax bill.

Along with this ordinance, the Board of Supervisors also enacted the ordinance, effective January 1, 2003, which allows for a pro-rated abatement of taxes for buildings razed, destroyed or damaged by fortuitous happenings. Effective January 1, 2004, the Town of Culpeper Council enacted this same ordinance.

GENERAL REASSESSMENT OF REAL PROPERTY

In the past, the Culpeper County Board of Supervisors (BOS) contracted out the task of general reassessment of real property as required by Code of Virginia §58.1-3252 *In Counties. – There shall be a general reassessment of real estate every four years. Any county which, however, has a total population of 50,000 or less may elect by majority vote of its board of supervisors to conduct its general reassessment at either five or six year intervals.* As many of you are aware, Culpeper County has contracted with outside companies to conduct general reassessments at four year (most recently) and five year intervals. As with any large expenditure, a request for proposals was advertised, and qualified companies responded. The BOS then awarded the contract to a company qualified by the Virginia Department of Taxation. Over the years, many property owners have asked why general reassessments were not performed “in-house”. After several years of discussion and research, this is what the BOS has decided to do with the next general reassessment.

In an effort to save taxpayer dollars and to arrive at a more fair and equitable assessment of real estate, I have agreed, at the request of the County BOS, to take on the responsibility of performing the next general reassessment. In accordance with Code of Virginia §58.1-3270, on February 1, 2005, a resolution was passed by the Board of Supervisors: “*Whereas, Culpeper County requests the Commissioner of the Revenue to act, with her consent, as the Assessor*”.

After pricing everything right down to paper clips, we have determined that we can perform the task of general reassessment of real property (approximately 24,000 parcels) at an estimated cost of \$14.17 per parcel. **In comparison, the current average quote to outsource with a qualified general reassessment company came in at \$484,000, which equates to \$20.17 per parcel.** Our goal is to assess the real property in Culpeper County more accurately, more fairly, more equitably, and at the same time save taxpayer dollars.

The general reassessment will be performed by the Division of Real Estate Assessments created under the purview of the Commissioner of the

Revenue. This division will be responsible for all real estate related duties. We will begin the first stage of the general reassessment in July 2005, and the process will continue through 2006. The general reassessment of real property will be completed and effective by January 1, 2007. We will be hiring local citizens part-time on a temporary basis to join our team. These folks will be called Field Data Technicians.

The Field Data Technicians will participate in a training session provided by a Senior Property Appraisal Consultant with the Virginia Department of Taxation, as well as side-by-side training with our experienced appraisers. After training the technicians will visit all real property. In an effort to verify the existing record, they will interview the owner or, in the owner’s absence, leave a questionnaire for completion. They will measure the home and all appurtenances, photograph the buildings, compare the existing record with what is observed and sketch the footprint of the buildings. We will then enter into our database all information collected for each property. Equalized values on land and improvements will be established based upon the findings of a thorough examination and a detailed analysis of current construction costs and sales of all types of properties.

Along with the process of assessing existing property for the general reassessment, we will continue to assess all new buildings. We will be visiting the new buildings, speaking with the owner whenever possible, measuring, photographing and creating a supplemental assessment for the number of days the building is complete for that particular tax year.

We hope this information is helpful to you, and we want you to know that we are dedicated to providing a general reassessment that will reflect accurate information and an equalized assessment for each property. We ask that you please assist us by answering the Data Technicians’ questions and allowing them access to the exterior of your buildings, in order to take measurements and photographs. Each Field Data Technician can be identified by their use of a County ID badge showing their picture, title and department. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call our office at 540-727-3443 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**FIELD DATA TECHNICIAN**

The Office of The Commissioner of the Revenue will be employing local individuals on a temporary part-time basis to work in the newly created Division of Real Estate Assessments. These individuals will be responsible for performing field inspections of property in Culpeper County in preparation for the upcoming general reassessment of real property. Technicians will review existing records; interview property owners; measure and sketch improvements; and take digital pictures. Technicians will be required to use their personal vehicle and will be reimbursed for mileage. Successful candidates must be self-motivated and have the ability to work independently. This position requires a valid driver’s license issued by the Commonwealth of Virginia. Individuals selected must provide a current background check at the time of employment.

A representative from the Virginia Department of Taxation will be holding an orientation on the “Roll of the Field Data Technician” on May 20, 2005. For reservations please submit a letter of application stating your interest and qualifications to Terry L. Yowell, Commissioner of the Revenue, PO Box 1807, Culpeper, VA 22701.

**Commissioner of the Revenue 540-727-3443**



Office of Emergency Services

Demands on Fire & Rescue Grow with the County

Growth in this area is a hot topic these days. Population is increasing, and the demands it makes on our supporting services offered by local and county government are increasing as well. What about services provided by our local fire and rescue departments? How is all of this affecting them?

In the Beginning

Years ago Culpeper County was mainly an agricultural community. The people who lived here also worked here. Volunteer companies were formed for fire and rescue. When a call went out, the volunteers who lived and worked in this community would stop work and run to the call.

Stresses in the System

Today, many people get up early to commute to their jobs and get home late. Our families are involved in many activities, and our lives are much more hectic. These changes have left fewer and fewer people to volunteer. Most companies have three categories of volunteers: Active Fire, Active Rescue, and Active Support or Auxiliary. Each of these groups of volunteers is vital to the success of the company. Because there are fewer Support members, and people have less and less time to spend volunteering, most Firefighters and Rescue personnel also help support the company with fundraising efforts and serve on various committees. Several serve in various capacities as elected officers. Some are called to represent their company with the Fire & Rescue Association, which then calls for more meetings and more committee work. With these many demands they are facing burnout. Somewhere in the midst of all of this they must make time for their families. That is why there is usually more than one family member serving as a volunteer in a company. It's a way families can spend time together doing something good for our community.

The EMS System

Because it was difficult to find volunteers for daytime hours, Culpeper County hired career medic/firefighters from 6am-6pm Monday though Friday. Recently they have added staff to cover this time period on weekends as well. Volunteers handle emergency calls from 6pm-6am seven days a week. Many must stop running calls around 4 or 5 am to get ready for their jobs. Many times, this can leave a gap in provider care during the hours of 4-6 am. Ideally each night would have a different EMS crew, which would consist of a driver and two EMT's, one at a basic level and one to serve at an advanced level of care. The reality is something else. Some stations don't have enough volunteers to staff a crew every night. That means the next closest station is called. Instead of just answering calls in their assigned area, they can be called out many times a night to answer calls in other areas. With minimal EMS volunteers, the same crews run night after night. More volunteers are needed. With the rapid growth of the county and the need for more schools and county services, do we really want to add the tax burden of funding a full time career staff?

What can the public do to help?

Enroll in an EMT class. If you are interested in being an EMT, you can start at the most basic level of First Responder. If you enjoy the work, then you may want to take additional classes to become an EMT Basic, then an EMT Intermediate, then finally a Paramedic. Classes are given in the evenings and usually start in September. You can start as young as 16 years old. This is a great way for young people who are considering a career in medicine to see if this is really the right path for them. Firefighter classes are usually given yearly as well. If you are a member of a company, usually your company will sponsor your classes. What other career offers you free training and gives you the chance to give back to your community? If Fire and Rescue companies were fully staffed by the necessary volunteers, then crews would mainly run calls in their own area. That would mean fewer calls with less demand placed on any one department and less chance of burnout.

Why do we volunteer?

If you ask members why they decided to become EMT or Firefighter, you will get as many answers as you have members. I am sure you have heard of the "Brotherhood" of Firefighters and EMT's. It's not something tangible. You can't see it, you



## Office of Emergency Services (*continued*)

can't touch it, you can't hear or taste it, but you do feel it. It comes from being alongside the people you work with in sometimes very stressful situations— knowing they are there for you, knowing you can depend on them and knowing at the end of that call, they can relate to the way you feel, because they too have been there. It's a bond that others sometimes have a hard time understanding, yet it's there nonetheless.

### **Are there other ways to help?**

You say you don't think you could ever be an EMT or a firefighter...well there are many more ways you can help as a Support/Auxiliary member. Many companies have BINGO one night a week to help raise funds. BINGO requires several people to help cook and serve meals in the kitchen. There are a variety of fundraisers during the year. If you can't help work an event, then support us by attending the event. You will have fun, get a great meal and help put a few more dollars in the kitty. Most kitchens cater several large meals during the year. They can always use people to help cook or wash dishes. Are you good with finances and accounting? Are you good at art work? Are you good at mechanics? Can you help us with publicity for fundraising? Do you have good ideas for fundraisers? Are you between the ages of 12-18 and considering a future in Fire or Rescue or medicine? Most companies have a Junior membership. Are you a Senior? We love Senior members. They are usually available to help during the daytime, when most of the other members are working. Do you enjoy committee work? With more Support members to do these many tasks, it would relieve fire and rescue members of many duties and give them more time to run the calls they are so desperately needed for.

### **What are some other ways to reduce stress on the system?**

Call 911 for true emergencies only. It is very frustrating to be called for a non-emergency. Most people would be surprised at how many people think if they call an ambulance they will get seen in the Emergency Room right away, without a wait.

**Wrong.** If it is not a true emergency, the EMS crew will be directed by the hospital staff to have you sit in the waiting area anyway. Calls like this take us away from the real emergency. How would you feel if your loved one was having a heart attack and with a taxed EMS system, they were not there to answer your call, because they were out transporting a non-emergency case to the ER?

**Another way to help...** If you see or hear an emergency siren, pull off to the side of the road as soon as you can safely do so. Many people think that if they are driving in the right hand lane of a four lane highway they don't have to pull over. You **should** pull over. Emergency vehicles will drive in the left lane, but you never know when they will need to get in front of your vehicle to make a right turn. Pull over, please. It could be your loved one we are trying to save. Volunteer members often respond to the station from their homes. Most fire/rescue personnel have red lights on their personnel vehicles. As a courtesy, please pull over and allow them to pass. The quicker they get to the station, the faster their response time.

### **Money paves the way for today and tomorrow.**

Your donations count! The money that is raised through fundraisers and donations help companies meet their monthly obligations. Most people are surprised to find that the county does not provide our fire & rescue vehicles. It is a struggle to keep equipment up to standards with limited funding. Memorial contributions and bequests are also accepted and very much appreciated.

**Finally**, as the area we serve grows, we must grow with it. There will be more calls, more need for public education and awareness, and more need for volunteers. We need your help, whether you decide to get training and help us directly provide emergency services, help as a Support member or help with a monetary donation. We appreciate any and all of the help you can give us.

Kim M. Westenfeld, EMT-C  
Secretary  
Reva Volunteer Fire & Rescue  
Company 16  
18230 Birmingham Road  
Culpeper, VA 22701

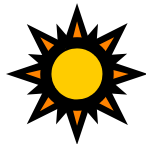




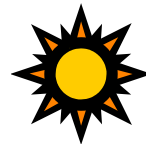
## *Culpeper County Sheriff's Office*

*H. Lee Hart, Sheriff*

*110 West Cameron Street • Culpeper, Virginia 22701*



*Summer 2005*



### *Citizens' Law Enforcement Academy*

The second session of the Culpeper Sheriff's Office Citizens' Law Enforcement Academy began on March 15, 2005. The Citizens' Law Enforcement Academy was developed to enhance the relationship between the Sheriff's Office and the community it serves. Because of its success, the third session of the Citizens' Law Enforcement Academy will begin in the Fall of 2005. For more information, contact Investigator Bob Canosa at 540-727-3444 ext.307

### *Culpeper Sheriff's Office implements Project Lifesaver*

Project Lifesaver is an innovative rapid response program aiding victims and families suffering from Alzheimer's disease and disorders such as Down syndrome and Autism. Project Lifesaver deploys specially trained teams with the most reliable technology available to quickly locate and return wandering adults and children to their families and caregivers. This program will be in operation in Culpeper County in the summer of 2005.



### *Realtor Safety*

On March 8, 2005, Captain Jim Branch, Sergeant Jim Fox, Investigator Scott Bzdak and Deputy Bill Eanes instructed a group of about 40 local Real Estate agents on ways to stay safe. Throughout the two-hour course deputies schooled the agents on ways to be safe at the office and in the field. Some of the tips included carrying a mobile phone, checking the property for escape routes and always walking behind the client while touring a house.

*The next Sheriff's Quarterly Report will be held in June 2005. Please check the local papers, TV and radio station for the date and location, as time nears.*

**Have you become physically and/or verbally abusive to your spouse or significant other? Help is available. Contact Culpeper County Criminal Justice Services at 540-727-3450 for a referral to a treatment provider.**

Culpeper Regional Airport



Culpeper Regional Airport provides economic benefits to the area

The term *economic impact* is used to describe the economic contribution of an industry or activity to state and regional economies. These economic contributions are measured in jobs, wages and business sales or economic activity. According to a report published in 2004 by the Virginia Department of Aviation, Virginia airports generate a total of approximately \$10.8 billion in economic activity and are responsible for over 164,000 jobs, with almost \$5 billion in wages.



There are 66 airports in Virginia, and they fit into five separate categories. There are 9 Commercial Service Airports, such as Dulles Airport. Virginia has 8 Reliever Airports, which help relieve the congestion at the large commercial service airports. There are 16 General Aviation Community Airports that serve a small market area or their respective communities. There are 16 Local Service Airports that provide limited services and have development constraints that hinder further expansion. Virginia has 17 General Aviation Regional Airports, such as Culpeper Regional, that serve a multi-jurisdictional area due to geography or because of the scarcity of other airport services and facilities in the area.

Virginia’s General Aviation Airports provide a multitude of aviation facilities that serve both recreational users and the business travelers across the State of Virginia. The report states that General Aviation Airports generate economic impacts of more than \$287 million and nearly 5,000 jobs with total wages of nearly \$111 million. Specifically, Culpeper Regional is responsible for about 140 jobs with wages of \$2.4 million and produces almost \$7 million in economic activity.

Airports benefit all Virginians through recreation and tourism; just-in-time shipping; corporate travel; agriculture; public safety; search and rescue; air medical transport; airline service; and weather reporting. Have you visited your local airport lately? Come and check us out. See what we can do for you.

Visit our link from: [www.culpepercounty.gov](http://www.culpepercounty.gov) or call us at 825-8280.



# CULPEPER MINUTES

A Publication of  
The Culpeper County  
Board of Supervisors



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CULPEPER MINUTES

ISSUE TWENTY

## Airport News



### A Falcon 50 visits Culpeper Regional Airport

Telephone Number for Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT): 540-829-7500  
To report Road Hazards or Snow-Flood Conditions: 800-367-7623 Toll Free